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CREWKERNE URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

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of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ended 31st December, 1947

Public Health Officers:-

Medical Officer of Health.

J.M. Aitken. M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Sanitary Inspector

H.R. Stamp. A.R. San. I.

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To The Chairman and Councillors of the Crewkerne Urban District.

Gentlemen,

I beg respectfully to submit for your consideration my First Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health of Crewkerne Urban District. In view of the fact that I did not commence my duties until September, a good deal of the work recorded in this report was directed by Dr. P.P. Fox. I have therefore refrained from making any major alterations in its form.

During the year, 26 new houses were erected and at the end of the year 31 were in the course of construction. Whilst these figures compare very favourably with other areas, they fall far short of the number of houses required to alleviate overcrowding in the town. The Council nevertheless are to be complimented on their achievements.

Preliminary negotiations with the Ministry of Health for the new sewage disposal scheme are now in hand and it is hoped that work will commence during 1948. This scheme will serve a future population of some 4,000 people.

During the year the Crewkerne Water Supply Co. Ltd. was taken over by the Council. This transaction will prove a very definite asset to the town, the Council now being in a position to exercise control over the quantity and purity of the supply.

There have been no serious outbreaks of infectious disease during the year, and as shown by the vital statistics, the health of the town is of a very high standard.

I have to thank the chairman and members of the Council for their confidence and support, also my fellow officials for their assistance in the compilation of this Report.

I am,

Your obedient servant.

J.M. AITKEN.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	1,221 Acres.
Registrar-General's estimate of (a) Resident Population, mid-1947 (b) Average Population appropriate to the calculation of death rates. ...	3,713
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1947) according to Rate Books.	1,275
Rateable Value	£20,756
Sum represented by a penny rate	£87

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

		Total	M.	F.
Live Births	- Legitimate	75	41	34
	Illegitimate	4	2	2
Still Births	- Legitimate	-	-	-
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
Deaths		61	27	34

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	21.5
Still Birth rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Nil
Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population.	16.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total Births (Live and Still)
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis) No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes)	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

All infants per 1,000 Live Births	37.9
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate Live Births	26.66
+ Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	250
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	12
" " Measles (all ages)	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

\+ Illegitimates.
Total No. of Births 4.
" " deaths under 1 year - 1.

Causes of Death.

	M.	F.
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	-
Cancer	6	6
Diabetes	1	2
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	3	7
Heart Diseases	5	9
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	-
Bronchitis	1	1
Pneumonia	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	-
Digestive Disorders	1	-
Nephritis	1	-
Birth Injuries and Malformations etc:	-	1
All other causes	2	6
	27	34

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. (a) Medical Officer of Health. Dr. J.M. Aitken succeeded Dr. P.P. Fox as Medical Officer of Health on September 1st.

   (b) Sanitary Inspector. No change.

2. (a) Laboratory Facilities No change.
   (b) Ambulance Facilities. No change.
   (c) Clinic.
   (d) Nursing. } No change.
   (e) Hospital.

SECTION C.

1. Water Supply. No improvements to the water supply have been carried out during the year. The Crewkerne Water Supply Company was taken over by the Council on April 1st.

2. Drainage and Sewerage. No improvements have been carried out at the Eastern Outfall Sewage Works. The new Sewage Disposal Scheme at the Eastern Outfall Works, estimated to cost approximately £37,000 is in course of preparation.

3. (1) Closet Accommodation. No change.
   (2) Public Cleansing. No change.
   (3) Sanitary Inspection of the Area :-
   Inspections for nuisances :-

   Informal Notices 3

   Draining Tests and Inspections. New draining work carried out during the year was tested and passed.

   Houses disinfected. 3 houses were disinfected following cases of infectious disease.

Shops and Offices.	No action was taken during the year under the Shops Act, 1934.
Smoke abatement.	No case of smoke nuisance was reported during the year.

SECTION D.

Housing Inspections.

1.	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts)	73
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	73
2.	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) (above) which were inspected and recorded under H. Con. Reg. 1925 and 1932	Nil
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
	(c) Number of houses in which no action was found necessary ...	Nil
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	3
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	5

Housing Action.

(a) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ..	2
(b) Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action	Nil

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	Nil.

Proceedings under Public Health Acts

Proceedings under Section 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936.	Nil
Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.	Nil

Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding

There is still some unavoidable but highly undesirable overcrowding.

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Number of Producers on the Register 10

Number of Producers on the register divided as follows:-
(1) Distributors only 4
(2) Distributors who are also Producers 2

Farms, cowsheds and dairies are periodically inspected. Sampling of milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936 - 1942 is now carried out by Sampling Officers of the County Public Health Department as from 1st July, 1946.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

Number of Slaughterhouses licensed 1

Slaughterhouses, shops etc. are inspected and meat and other foods are examined, and, where necessary, condemning notices are served.

(c) Adulteration, etc.
Local action taken ... ... None.

SECTION F.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The following inoculations were given during 1947:-

1st and 2nd.		3rd.
Under 5 years.	5 -14 years.	5 - 14 years.
55	10	57

Notifiable Diseases.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Whooping Cough	2	-	-
Measles	43	1	-
Pneumonia	1	1	-
Cerebro- Spinal Fever	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	-

The following case of Non-notifiable Infectious Disease was admitted to South Petherton Isolation Hospital :-

Vincents Angina - 1

Analysis of the Total Cases Notified.

	Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.
Whooping Cough.	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	2	1	5	4	8	18	3	1	1	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-

Tuberculosis.

Age Period.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1								
1 - 5								
5 - 15								
15 - 25	1							
25 - 35					1			
35 - 45								
45 - 55								
55 - 65								
65 & upwards								
TOTAL	1				1			

New Cases 1 Deaths 1

SECTION G.
Factories Act 1937

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	32	15	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspctr.	Prosecuted etc:
Want of cleanliness	3	3	-	-

OUTWORK.

No of out-workers in August list required by Section 110. ... ... 36 (Making of wearing apparel)